(c) whether Government have proposed to formulate an action plan on National level to check the rising level of pollution; and

(d) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) is monitoring air quality at 339 locations under the National Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAMP). The monitored data reveals that the level of sulphur dioxide (SO_2) and nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) are within the prescribed air quality standards in residential areas of most of the cities. However, the levels of respirable suspended particulate matter (RSPM) exceed the prescribed norms.

The ambient air quality is monitored at 7 locations in Delhi including residential areas, industrial areas and traffic intersection. The monitored data indicates that the levels of sulphur dioxide concentration in ambient air are showing a decreasing trend and the nitrogen dioxide levels increased in the year 2006 in comparison to 2001 data. The concentration of the Suspended Particulate Matter (SPM) in residential and industrial areas in 2006 indicated that it was below the levels recorded in 1996. Concluding reports are not available to indicate adverse effects of pollution on human health.

(c) and (d) Various steps have been initiated for abatement of pollution which *inter-alia* include:

- notification of ambient and source specific emission and effluent standards;
- preparation and implementation of action plans for air quality management;
- source apportionment studies in 6 cities including Delhi for ascertaining contribution of pollution from various sources;
- introduction of Bharat Stage III norms at the manufacturing stage for vehicles;
- introduction of cleaner fuel in public transport; and
- use of beneficiated coal in thermal power plants.

Fresh water lake for migratory birds

1062. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is extending assistance to the State of Andhra Pradesh to contain the degeneration of coastal wet Land Kolleru Lake and restore it as a fresh water Lake and a haven of migratory birds;

(b) if so, the details of the funds allocated and technical expertise assistance extended and measures initiated to reclaim encroachments and stopping the urban sewage, industrial effluents, fertilizers and pesticide residues polluting the Lake; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and) (b) Yes, Sir. Kolleru Lake in Andhra Pradesh is one of the 94 identified wetlands under the National Wetland Conservation Programme, and it is also a Ramsar Site. So far, an amount of Rs. 76.05 lakhs (including Rs. 35.84 lakhs during 2006-07) has been released by the Central Government to the State of Andhra Pradesh for undertaking

various conservation activities like restoration measures, protection measures and education & awareness in Kolleru Lake.

As per the direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, a total of 1776 illegal fish tank bunds covering an area of about 44,700 acres in West Godavari and Krishna District have been demolished. The State Government has also engaged Wetland International South Asia (WISA) for technical assistance.

(c) Does not arise.

Violation of Environment Laws

1063. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of complaints regarding violation of Environment Laws that were received by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) at Baroda (Vadodara) Gujarat, during last five years ending on 31st March, 2007;

(b) the actions that were taken by his Ministry on the above complaints; and

(c) the number of license that were issued by the CPCB during above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The Zonal Office of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) at Vadodara has received 46 complaints regarding violation of environment laws during the last five years ending on 31st March, 2007. The complaints received were taken up for necessary action with the concerned State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs)/Pollution Control Committees (PCCs). In some of the cases, they were investigated through the Zonal Office of the CPCB at Vadodara and necessary action taken accordingly.

(c) The CPCB does not issue licenses to industries and licenses in terms of Consent to establish and Consent to operate are granted by the concerned SPCBs.

Schemes under Forest (Conservation) Act

1064. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of schemes submitted by various States under Forest (Conservation) Act which are lying pending with Government for approval;

(b) the reasons for delay in giving approval to these schemes;

(c) the details thereof, scheme-wise; and

(d) by when these schemes would be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (d) As of now a total of 400 project proposals received from various State/UT Governments under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 are pending with the Central Government. The details of these proposals is given in the Statement, (*See* below). These proposals are at various stages of processing and obtaining clearance from the Hon'ble Supreme Court. The complete proposals received in the Central Government are processed on priority to ensure that there is no delay in arriving at a decision takes place